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Recd KuS-3B/ 31 AUG 79

TRANSIT/2341511/2341846/883135TOR2341846 RETRAN OF MAY439

DE RUFSLZA #7131 2341511

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FM USDAO LA PAZ BOLIVIA

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC

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BT

THIS IS JF 6 8FB PRSS 79

THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL

1. (U) COUNTRY: BOLIVIA (BL)

2. (U) REPORT NUMBER: 6 8BB PRSS 79

3. (U) TITLE: PCCK TEST - ADDITIONAL OBJECT REPORTEDLY FOUND NEAR SANTA CRUZ

4. (U) PROJECT NUMBER: NA

5. (U) DATE OF INFO: 79R819

6. (U) DATE OF REPORT: 79R821

7. (U) DATE & PLACE OF ACC: 79R819, LA PAZ

8. (U) REFERENCES: D-TDP-45756/CONTINUES

9. (U) ASSESSMENT: F-6

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10. (U) ORIGINATOR: USDAO LA PAZ, DATT/AIRA
11. (U) REQUEST EVALUATION: NO
12. (U) PREPARING OFFICER: HAROLD T HAMILTON, COL, USAF
13. (U) APPROVING AUTHORITY: HAROLD T HAMILTON, COL, USAF
14. (U) SOURCE: NEWS MEDIA
15. (U) SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: PROTECTIVE CAVEAT USED DUE TO SENSITIVITY OF INFO. DIRC: NO
16. (U) THE LA PAZ DAILY NEWSPAPER "EL DIARIO" OF 790819 REPORTED THAT A SECOND UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT HAD BEEN FOUND NEAR SANTA CRUZ.
ITEM 221 DETAILS: ONE OF THE LEADING DAILY NEWSPAPERS OF LA PAZ, "EL DIARIO", CARRIED A FRONT PAGE STORY ON 790819 STATING THAT A SECOND UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT VERY SIMILAR TO THE FIRST ONE REPORTED, HAD BEEN FOUND IN SANTA CRUZ DEPARTMENT. (SEE IR-6 880 0857 79 REGARDING FIRST OBJECT REPORTED.) THE HEADLINE OF THIS STORY STATES QUOTE: NEW SPHERE FELL FROM SPACE IN SANTA CRUZ - UNQUOTE. AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF THE ARTICLE FOLLOWS.
QUOTE: A SECOND FIRE BALL FELL FROM THE SKY EARLY IN THE MORNING OF THE SAME DAY THAT THE FIRST ONE WAS FOUND NEAR COTOCA. THIS SECOND ONE WAS FOUND 200 KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ ON THE FARM OF JUAN SAAVEDRA BY THE CAMPESINO GONZALO MENACHO VIVERAS. THE PLACE IS IN THE AREA OF BUEN RETIRO NEAR THE YAPACANE RIVER. ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN BY THE CAMPESINO, AROUND 1913H AM ON FRIDAY LAST WEEK WE HEARD A LOUD WHISTLING SOUND AND SAW A FIRE BALL FOLLOWED BY AN EXPLOSION. HE SAID THAT THE NEXT EVENING A SILENT AIRCRAFT THAT HAD THREE LIGHTS WAS FLYING OVER THE EXPLOSION AREA.
AFTER DAWN ON FRIDAY MORNING THE CAMPESINO STARTED LOOKING AROUND THE AREA OF THE IMPACT AND FOUND A SPHERE. AS IT WAS NOT HEAVY, HE TOOK IT HOME WHERE HE KEPT IT UNTIL HIS FRIEND NATANIEL MENDEZ HURTADO LEARNED OF THE OTHER SPHERE IN COTOCA AND PASSED ON INFORMATION CONERNING THIS SECOND SPHERE.
THE MYSTERY OF FINDING THESE TWO SPHERES, EXACTLY ALIKE, IS THAT ACCORDING TO THE WITNESSES THEY WERE FIRE BALLS. THAT IS TO SAY THAT THESE SPHERES BECAME REAL BALLS OF FIRE WHEN THEY ENTERED THE ATMOSPHERE BECAUSE OF THE FRICTION AND AFTER HIGH SPEED FALL THEY HIT THE GROUND. HOWEVER, IN THE AREA WHERE THEY'VE BEEN FOUND, THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF THE IMPACT AND LOOKS

AS THOUGH THE SPHERES LANDED SMOOTHLY.
THE MATERIAL OF THE SPHERES IS KIND OF FRAGIL, BUT THEY ARE NOT DAMAGED (BY IMPACT) AND IN BOTH CASES THEY ONLY SHOW A HOLE (IN OUTER SKIN) WITH MELTED EDGES AND AN EXPLOSION (APPARANTLY) DESTROYED THE CONTENTS OF THE INTERIOR.
GONZALO MENACHO SAID THAT WHERE HE FOUND THE SPHERE HE SAW SOME BURNED PLANTS BUT HE DID NOT SEE ANY SIGN OF THE IMPACT ON THE SOFT GROUND. THE SPHERE FOUND IN THE NORTH OF THE SANTA-CRUZ DEPARTMENT WEIGHS ABOUT SIX KILOGRAMS WITH A DIAMETER OF ABOUT 88 CENTIMETERS. THE OUTSIDE METAL IS SIMILAR TO COPPER, IS KIND OF DARK WITH LIGHT SPOTS, AND HAS APPARANTLY BEEN EXPOSED TO VERY HIGH TEMPERATURES.
THE SPHERE IS MADE BY TWO PIECES PUT TOGETHER WITHOUT ANY RIVETS. ON THE TOP OF THE SPHERE YOU CAN SEE A HOLE OF IRREGULAR SHAPE AND NEXT TO IT ANOTHER SMALL ROUND HOLE. IN BOTH, THE MATERIAL IS MELTED. AT THE OTHER END OF THE SPHERE THERE IS A ROUND AREA THAT LOOKS LIKE A CORK IN A BOTTLE HELD IN PLACE BY THREE SEMI-MELTED SCREWS.
THE SPHERE WAS BROUGHT TO THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ BY NEWSMEN FROM A LOCAL RADIO STATION WHO INFORMED THIS NEWSPAPER OF THE DETAILS. THE CAMPESINO WHO FOUND THIS SPHERE CLAIMS IT AS HIS PROPERTY. THE SPHERE WAS ON PUBLIC DISPLAY ALL AFTERNOON AT THE RADIO STATION. UNQUOTE.
NO COMMENT: / A PICTURE ACCOMPANYING THE ABOVE ARTICLE SHOWS THIS SECOND UNIDENTIFIED SPHERE TO BE PRACTICALLY IDENTICAL IN APPEARANCE TO THE FIRST ONE. A COPY OF THIS ARTICLE AND PICTURE WERE FORWARDED TO DIA/DT-3 BY STATE DEPT POUCH ON 700820. ALSO INCLUDED IN THE POUCH WERE THE FOLLOWING RELATING TO THE FIRST SPHERE: (1) 35MM COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS; (2) AN UNDEVELOPED ROLL OF HOME MOVIE FILM; AND (3) A COPY OF THE NEWSPAPER STORY. REQUEST DIA ADVISE IF FURTHER REPORTING/ACTION IS DESIRED ON THISE INCIDENTS. ALSO, IF THE MOVIE FILM IS DEVELOPED, REQUEST ONE COPY BE FORWARDED TO USDAO LA PAZ FOR TRANSMITTAL TO ORIGINAL OWNER.

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